

CONSPIRACY SUIT DROPPED BY VOLZ

TP By BOB USSERY *whof*

The district attorney's office has given up its attempt to try a California man on a charge of conspiring to murder the late President John F. Kennedy.

The death of an unidentified "major witness" was given as the reason.

Assistant DA John P. Volz nol prossed the charge against Edgar Eugene Bradley, 51, Hollywood, on June 19 without an announcement, w h i c h might have taken the form of an accusatory press release from the office of DA Jim Garrison during the height of the furor surrounding his Kennedy assassination investigation.

Bradley's case never received the attention accorded to that of Clay L. Shaw, the only other person ever known to face such a charge anywhere.

One of the more intriguing elements of the case was contributed by Volz when he entered his reasons for dropping the charge on the back of the bill of information in the folder on file with the clerk of criminal court.

"Nolle prosequi," Volz wrote in longhand, "due to death of major witness in case. During period of availability of this witness, extradition from the state of California was blocked."

Volz said Thursday that he was not at liberty to reveal the name of the deceased witness, whether he or she was also a witness against Shaw, or even the witness' sex.

Volz's saying Bradley's extradition was blocked is reminiscent of Garrison's claims that a conspiracy overseen by the federal government prevented him from getting witnesses and evidence in his assassination probe.

Bradley defeated extradition attempts in California courts, where such an issue must be resolved, up to the time the charge was dismissed.

Volz said he did not know if extradition proceedings were still pending.

Shaw was found innocent of

the conspiracy charge against him on March 1, 1969, two years to the day after he was taken in handcuffs to the police central lockup by Garrison's investigators and assistants.

Shaw's indictment, filed by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, accused him of conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the man who fired the shots which killed Kennedy; and David Ferrie, a former airline pilot who died five days after Garrison's investigation was made public in February, 1967.

A perjury charge stemming from the conspiracy trial still pends against Shaw.

Bradley was charged with conspiring with "others" who were not named in a bill of information filed by the DA's office on Dec. 20, 1967.

Garrison claimed the conspiracy took place between Aug. 1 and Nov. 22, 1963.

Bradley filed a \$1.5 million libel suit in California almost one year ago against more than 50 persons and news agencies he said were responsible for Garrison's conspiracy accusations against him.

He accused the defendants of falsely stating he was in Dallas on or about Nov. 22, 1963, the day of the assassination.

Bradley's suit said his long legal battle against extradition cost much money and the accusations caused him "great anxiety and pain of mind."